REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically, by this amendment, claims 15-17 and 19-29 have been amended. No claims have been canceled and no new claims have been added to the application. Accordingly, claims 15-29 are pending in the application. No new matter has been added.

In the prior Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15, 20, 21 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner contends that use the phrase "and/or" in such claims renders them indefinite. Applicant respectfully disagrees. But in order to overcome the Examiner's claim rejection, applicant has elected to delete the term "and/or" from all such claims. Also in the prior Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 20 because the word "to" was inadvertently omitted between the words "being connected" and "said workstation". By this amendment, the word "to" has been added to claim 20. Finally, the Examiner rejected claim 19 on grounds that there was insufficient antecedent basis for the phrase "the procedure is recorded" in claim 19. By this Amendment, applicant has amended claim 19 to recite that the method further comprises "recording the log-in procedure" as is disclosed in paragraph [0041] of US 2006/0224747 A1 (all references herein to the present application are made with respect to the paragraph numbers in the published application).

Also in the prior Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of the following prior art references:

Murray et al.	U.S. Pat. No. 6,356,943 B2	709/220
Redfern	U.S. Pat. No. 7,313,130 B2	370/352
Lawrence R.	U.S. Pat. No. 6,826,196 B1	370/466
Kukic	U.S. Publ. No. US 2003/0169780 A1	370/535
Kloninger et al.	U.S. Publ. No. US 2004/0073596 A1	709/200
Hughes et al.	U.S. Pat. No. 6,434,612 B1	709/223

Moutafov	U.S. Publ. No. US 2003/0225889 A1	709/227
Okamoto et al.	U.S. Publ. No. US 2008/0235427 A1	710/301
Rothman et al.	U.S. Publ. No. US 2005/0027954 A1	711/159
Nessett et al.	U.S. Pat. No. 5,742,759	726/4
Klingman	U.S. Pat. No. 5,799,285	705/26
Stephenson et al.	U.S. Publ. No. US 2007/0136480 A1	709/227
Pattabhiraman et al.	U.S. Publ. No. US 2002/0059408 A1	709/223

Applicant notes that none of the prior art references cited by the Examiner are classified in the same technical field as the present application. Furthermore, applicant notes that none of the cited prior art references concerns a method for the establishment of a virtual electronic teaching system or a virtual electronic teaching system established by using a telecommunication network while, as is the case in accordance with the present invention, a virtual electronic teaching system is set up with individual interactive communication where the interface circuit (SS) offers the advantage of enabling, in a surprisingly simple fashion, an individual conception of the virtual electronic teaching system by the use, which is done by the interface circuit (SS) <u>vicarious</u> only for the telecommunication device (TE) (see paragraph [0039] of US 2006/0224747 A1). For this purpose, an interface circuit (SS) is provided as an autonomous device, which is equipped with its own microprocessor (MP), its own EPROM memory (SP), and, if applicable, and its own hard disk (see paragraph [0047] of US 2006/0224747 A1), as well as with standardized interfaces (COM, USB) to communicate with a microcomputer at workstation (AP) of the person participating in the e-learning or tele-teaching event and, on the other side, with the telecommunication device (TE) (see paragraph [0048] of US 2006/0224747 A1). As <u>vicarious</u> for the telecommunication device (TE), the interface circuit (SS) firstly performs a test to verify the bandwidth available at the telecommunication device (TE) (see paragraph [0049] of US 2006/0224747 A1), whereas the telecommunication device (TE) may be connected to the main distribution via a subscriber line interface and the subscriber line (AL) or via a subscriber modem and a splitter and the subscriber line (AL) or via a network termination (NTBA) and the subscriber line (AL).

In order to more clearly state the features of the present invention that differentiate the prior art, applicant has amended independent claims 15 and 20, and

dependent claims 16 and 17. The amendments may be determined directly and undoubtedly from the disclosure of the description, which is as follows (amended features are underlined):

In claim 15:

with a central content-server for an e-learning or tele-teaching event and with a workstation (AP) of a person participating in the e-learning or tele-teaching event, (see for example paragraph [0048], [0050] and [0053] of US 2006/0224747 A1);

or to the workstation (AP), (see for example paragraph [0048] or [0054], [0056] and [0059] of US 2006/0224747 A1);

the interface circuit (SS) has a memory unit (SP) and a microprocessor (MP), (see paragraph [0047] of US 2006/0224747 A1);

and for automatic test done by the interface circuit (SS) [...]

a) registering itself to said content-server by means of a log-in procedure stored in the memory unit (SP), (see for example paragraph [0050] and [0053] of US 2006/0224747 A1);

b) establishing a connection for the telecommunication device (TE) connected to said main distribution via a subscriber line or subscriber modem and splitter or a network termination (NTBA) and subscriber lines (AL), (see for example paragraph [0051] of US 2006/0224747 A1);

c) [...] pending on the communications interface (MFE) of (see for example paragraph [0051] in connection with paragraph [0069] of US 2006/0224747 A1);

d) transmitting at least one in the memory unit (SP), (see for example paragraph [0051] in connection with paragraph [0069] of US 2006/0224747 A1); and

e) evaluating an acknowledgement for the test information received there returned (see for example paragraph [0051] in connection with paragraph [0069] of US 2006/0224747 A1).

In claim 16:

with said content-server as a remote station (see for example paragraph [0053] of US 2006/0224747 A1).

In claim 17:

obtained by said content server so (see for example paragraph [0054] and [0055] of US 2006/0224747 A1).

In claim 20:

teaching system, with a central content-server for an e-learning or tele-teaching event and with a workstation (AP) of a person participating in the e-learning or tele-teaching event, (see for example paragraph [0048], [0050] and [0053] of US 2006/0224747 A1);

an interface circuit (SS), with a memory unit (SP) and a microprocessor (MP), (see paragraph [0047] of US 2006/0224747 A1);

connected via at least a standardized interface (see paragraph [0047] of US 2006/0224747 A1);

registers itself to said content-server by means of the log-in procedure stored in the memory unit (SP), and automatically tests at least (see for example paragraph [0050] and [0053] of US 2006/0224747 A1); and

by transmitting at least one test signal stored in the memory unit (SP) to said content-server (see for example paragraph [0051] of US 2006/0224747 A1).

That is, one of the primary distinguishing features of the present invention is that the interface circuit (SS) is vicarious for the telecommunication device (TE), and interface circuit (SS) has all the technical means needed for simple expansion or modification of the teaching system, including the establishment of new user groups and a significant expansion of the area of application. In particular, the connection of a new student to the teaching system can be accomplished immediately and even by an untrained user, without the requirement of expensive preliminary installations (see for example paragraph [0039] of US 2006/0224747 A1).

Murray et al. shows a distance learning implementation which is effected as a

client/ server solution with a centralized server facility and a remote client facility. The distance learning implementation empowers an organization to replicate the online experience that students will encounter when using the central resource, such as the real-time environment of a host system and/or expensive dedicated system, without incurring the costs (and risk) associated with transporting specialized, expensive equipment to a remote site for training, and without incurring the cost of transporting trainees to a centralized facility or premises housing the specialized, expensive equipment on which the trainees are trained. To achieve this, the centralized server facility of Murray et al. includes a first network with at least one host processor system and associated operating software. Each of the at least one host processor system(s) is configured in the network with at least one specialized apparatus, such as an Integrated Cache Disk Array, which represents an operating environment for purposes of training remote trainees. A gateway, in the form of a router, provides access to the centralized server facility network, and the at least one host processor system is selectably accessible through a switch in the server facility network. The router advantageously provides both routing and bridging for a wide variety of protocols and network media between the central facilities resources and the remote site. The router comprises network interfaces resident on port adapters, that provide a connection between the router's Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) busses and external networks, and advantageously support any combination of interfaces, such as Ethernet, Fast Ethernet, Token Ring, FDDI, ATM, serial, ISDN, and HSSI. The present distance learning implementation relies on a packet-switched architecture, as opposed to a circuit switching model. To enable a switched architecture, a standalone switch is connected between the router and the central site's various computational resources. The switch replaces shared hubs, such as 10 BaseT hubs and is capable of delivering up to 320 Mbps forwarding bandwidth and 450,000 pps aggregate packet forwarding rate. It is flexibly configurable between cut-through and store-and-forward switching.

A remote site is the client side of the client/server implementation according to the present distance learning implementation of Murray et al. The remote training facility is easily configured and deconfigured by a training specialist. The remote site is configured by said training specialist to provide each classroom participant with his

or her own computer for real-time online training in the environment of the central site's resources. The remote training facility network is configured by a training specialist as a client with a minimal amount of hardware to access the centralized server facility network over a standard digital communications network, such as an integrated services digital network (ISDN) line. The remote training facility network comprises at least one portable computer, such as a laptop PC, interconnected via a hub router to the standard digital communications network. For laptops at the remote site to access the centrally located mainframe, the computer user starts a client session of Exceed which is used in the 3270 terminal emulation mode, by selecting an appropriate icon. This session request is sent through the remote router, through the ISDN line to the centrally located router and there through to the centrally located switch to the mainframe, where it effects a login if this is configured by the training specialist. The personal computers used at the remote site are connected to a remote site hub router designed for the appropriately sized access environment. The system relies on ISDN connectivity between the remote site and central site, thus the hub router in the illustrative embodiment contains an ISDN Basic Rate Interface (BRI) and terminal adapter, and includes scalability through the inclusion of repeater connectivity and additional synchronous interfaces for added remote connectivity. After the connections are made, connectivity tests between the remote PCs and the hub router, between the hub router and each of the central site router and resources can commence. Therefore, Murray et al is not based on existing technical means, but requires special software and hardware elements especially routers at each side and to configure and deconfigure the remote training facility by a training specialist, which are more expensive.

Furthermore, the present distance learning implementation of Murray et al. fails to give the technical inspiration of automatic test of the available bandwidth during operation by using the interface circuit (SS) according to the present invention. By means of continuously and automatically verifying with the interface circuit (SS), the typical “time out” problem may be safely avoided, as it registers itself to the server and the content data such as image is completely received, so that the workstation (AP) is still kept in the e-learning or tele-teaching event when the images with high resolution are transmitted with a frame rate of e.g. 16/s. This is impossible

for the present distance learning implementation of Murray et al. The interface circuit (SS) according to the present invention can be switched to another transmission channel depending on the requirement on bandwidth, and this is achieved by dynamical channel management and bandwidth control. When e.g. 30 B channel work in parallel, a transmission rate up to 1.92Mbit/s can be achieved. This is also not possible according to the present distance learning implementation of Murray et al.

In the virtual electronic teaching system according to the invention, the interface circuit (SS) registers itself to a central content server with the aid of the log-in procedure stored in the memory unit (SP), and then determines the type of the connection at the communication interface (MFE) of the interface circuit (SS). After that, the interface circuit (SS) sends at least one test information stored in the memory unit (SP) to the central content server, and evaluates the acknowledgement with response to the test information returned in the opposite direction by the content server, so as to automatically verify the bandwidth available at the telecommunication device (TE) during operation.

As mentioned in the description in paragraph [0020] of US 2006/0224747 A1, in comparison with the electronic teaching system known in the art, the advantage of the present invention is that no expensive preliminary installation is needed, the interface circuit (SS) enables simple expansion and modification of the teaching system, including images from a new user group and significantly enlargement of the area of application. In particular, a new student is able to take part in the system immediately, even accomplished by an untrained user. Moreover, another advantage of the present invention is, a user may make his personal conception on the virtual electronic teaching system in a surprisingly simple way. In comparison with the prior art, the user may configure the virtual electronic teaching system according to their requirement by means of a procedure controlled by a menu, so that the functions of software are not limited, and the producers need not select among the corresponding functions any more, such as to realize a general interface.

Murray et al. fails disclose the technical solutions as set forth in amended claims 15 and 20 of the present application. Persons skilled in the art are not able to obtain the technical inspiration on the virtual electronic teaching system when

reading Murray et al. To the contrary, Murray et al. discloses a static information transmission system, which cannot be altered dynamically and which necessarily requires special software and hardware elements, especially routers at each side, and to be configured and deconfigured by a training specialist.

Redfern discloses a spectrally compatible mask for enhanced upstream data rates in DSL systems, especially a method and apparatus for providing extended upstream data transmission in a band having a lowest frequency f0 by an end user terminal unit in an asymmetric digital subscriber line communication between a central office terminal unit and the end user terminal unit, using a loop having a length. However, there is a large group of users in both home offices and small businesses for which it is desirable to have a bandwidth split which is not as biased towards higher data rates in the downstream. It is not possible to simply re-allocate tones from downstream to upstream, to achieve this goal, because the ADSL standard defines a power spectral density (PSD) for communication, by specifying a PSD mask not to be violated. In the telephone infrastructure, the twisted pairs of many end-users in an area are eventually gathered together in a bundle that extends to the CO. The limits specified in the PSD mask prevent undue interference of ADSL signals on a given twisted pair with ADSL or other communications on other twisted pairs in the same bundle. If the crosstalk energy is sufficiently large, it can overwhelm a receiver, and actually prevent communication on the affected twisted pair.

In the method, a target rate of upstream data transmission is provided. A plurality of sets of values is determined, of (1) an extension frequency f2 that is higher than a frequency f1 for upstream data transmission, f1 being a frequency established for non-extended upstream data transmission, the region bounded by f1 and f2 being an extension band for upstream data transmission, and (2) a maximum power level S2 for the extension band determined by the extension frequency in the set. From the estimated loop length, a selection set of values for f2 and S2 is determined. Both terminal units select from the set of values by performing a signal-to-noise ratio determination and determining the value which results in an upstream data rate that approximates the target rate. Data is transmitted upstream by the end user terminal unit using the selection set of values. When an ATU-R modem first

links to an ATU-C modem, a well-known initialization protocol is followed, in four phases, the first phase, is the "handshake," the second phase is called "training,", in the third phase, the transceivers exchange capability information and perform detailed channel analysis and in the last phase of the initialization “setting” the final transmission rates in both the upstream and downstream directions for the connection. In general, in the practice of Redfern, in order to effect an enhanced upstream data rate in an ADSL communication, a PSD limit, or mask, is determined for requirements of the specific ADSL communication mode and the loop length over which the communication is to occur. This mask used to control the amplitudes of signals transmitted during the upstream transmission, in order to make the transmission comply with the restrictions imposed by a spectrum management standard.

Redfern fails to disclose the technical solutions as set forth in amended claims 15 and 20 of the present application. Persons skilled in the art are not able to obtain the technical inspiration on the virtual electronic teaching system when reading Redfern. To the contrary, Murray et al. and Redfern lie in different technical fields, describe quite different problems and solutions, insofar a person skilled in the art would not and could not combine the contradictory teachings of Murry et al. and Redfern.

Lawrence discloses a method and apparatus to allow connection establishment over diverse link types, especially to allow arbitrary types of connections to be established over arbitrary link types that include link types that do not inherently support virtual circuits. One disadvantage is that in the prior art, the combination of a connection routing system and a virtual circuit switch does not allow sending packets of data on every link type. For example, no existing switch allows the forwarding of packets on virtual circuits, set up by a PNNI controller, from ATM links that support virtual circuits to Ethernet links that do not inherently support virtual circuits. The data switching system according to Lawrence includes a label switching system to establish virtual circuit connections over any link types. The data switching system also includes a connection routing and signaling controller, coupled to the label switching system, to determine routes for connections over any link types. By way of one embodiment of the present data switching system, one may

establish PNNI routing over Ethernet links, for example. The connection routing software runs a connection routing protocol from connection controller to connection controllers of other switches. Typically, connection information is extracted from the connection routing software that runs on the connection controller, which performs signaling that allows it to develop a map of the network and to maintain a topology database. Based on the topology database and other information, a connection controller determines a need for connections and specific routes through the network and also extracts cross-connect information to set up connections at the switch. When a packet is forwarded to its next hop, a label is sent along with the packet, i.e., the packet is "labeled." A "labeled packet" is a packet on which a label has been attached. At subsequent hops, the label is used as an index to a table which specifies the next hop and the new label. The old label is then replaced with a new label, and the packet is forwarded to its next hop. The process of using labels from incoming packets to determine next-hop links and outgoing labels is known as label switching. The label stack is represented as a sequence of "label stack entries". The operation may be to replace the top label stack entry with another, or to pop an entry off the label stack, or to replace the top label stack entry and then to push one or more additional entries on the label stack. In addition to learning the next hop and the label stack operation, one may also learn the outgoing data link encapsulation, and possibly other information needed to properly forward the packet.

Lawrence fails to disclose the technical solutions as set forth in amended claims 15 and 20 of the present application. And a person skilled in the art would not be able to obtain the technical inspiration on the virtual electronic teaching system when reading Lawrence. To the contrary, Murray et al., Redfern and Lawrence lie in different technical fields, describe quite different problems and solutions, insofar a person skilled in the art would not and could not combine these contradictory documents (Murray et al., Redfern and Lawrence).

Kukic discloses a method and a system for establishing link bit rate for inverse multiplexed data streams, especially for determining link characteristics in order to calculate the optimal data rate because of a link failure. Known solutions to this problem teach that the data stream can be distributed or split into separate streams and the separate streams sent over multiple links or lines of lower capacity; the

aggregate capacity of the lower capacity links is sufficient to carry the data stream. This approach to splitting data or transporting the data stream over several links is known as "inverse multiplexing". Known methods of inverse multiplexing teach that all of the low capacity links, among which the ATM data stream is inversely multiplexed, have to be trained at an optimal rate and synchronized so that each line is transmitting from the transmitter end to the receiver end at the same rate. The links are considered and trained as needed, but this leads to unnecessary time delays for restoring traffic flow when a link failure occurs because the characteristics of other links have to be determined and a new optimal rate established. The system includes at least two inverse multiplexers (IMUXs) coupled by a pre-activation communication channel and multiple physical communication links. The system is also shown with a processor coupled to the IMUX, however, the processor could be coupled to the second IMUX or the processor could be an internal part of either the IMUXs.

Kukic includes a first unit at a first location coupled to one end of each of a plurality of low capacity data links for assisting in determining the characteristics of each of the links, a second unit at the second location coupled to the other end of each of the links for assisting in determining the characteristics of each of the links based on the characteristics of the test signal received at the second unit, and a processor coupled to the second unit for determining the optimal transmission rate based on the characteristics of the links and the number of links needed to provide the desired transmission rate.

The method according to Kukic includes determining the characteristics and a maximum rate for each of the links to create a list of available links and associated transmission rates; selecting the link with the lowest rate and setting all available links to transmit at the same rate to determine a total available rate; comparing the total available rate based on the lowest rate and the number of available links to the desired rate; selecting the next lowest rate from the available rates and setting all other links to transmit at the next lowest rate to determine another total available rate; continuing the selecting and comparing until all available rates have been considered to create a list of maximum rates that correspond to the rate for one of the available links, and thus, selecting one total available rate from the total available

rates that is at least equal to or greater than the desired rate to produce the optimal rate. The process of determining and selecting the optimal transmission rate is carded out by the processor. Various factors are considered, including the characteristics of each link, in order to determine the optimal rate. The characteristics considered include attenuation, error-rate, and noise.

Kukic fails to disclose the technical solutions as set forth in amended claims 15 and 20 of the present application. Persons skilled in the art are not able to obtain the technical inspiration on the virtual electronic teaching system when reading Kukic. To the contrary, Murray et al., Redfern, Lawrence and Kukic lie in different technical fields, describe quite different problems and solutions, insofar a person skilled in the art would not and could not combine these contradictory documents.

Kloninger et al. discloses an enterprise content delivery network having a central controller for coordinating a set of content servers, which includes two basic components: a set of content servers; and a central controller for providing coordination and control of the content servers. To solve the object of providing an ECDN wherein a central controller is used to coordinate a set of distributed servers (e.g., caching appliances, streaming servers, or machines that provide both HTTP and streaming media delivery) in a unified system, the central controller coordinates the set of distributed servers into a unified system, e.g., by providing provisioning, content control, request mapping, monitoring and reporting.

Content requests may be mapped to optimal content servers by DNS-based or HTTP redirect-based mapping, or by using a policy engine that takes into consideration such factors as the location of a requesting client machine, the content being requested, asynchronous data from periodic measurements of an enterprise network and state of the servers, and given capacity reservations on the enterprise links. An ECDN provisioned with the basic components facilitates various customer applications, such as live, corporate, streaming media (from internal or Internet sources), and HTTP Web content delivery. The enterprise content delivery network according to Kloninger et al. further provides for bandwidth protection, as corporations rely on their connectivity between offices for mission critical day to day operations such as email, data transfer, sales force automation (SFA), and the like.

The present system addresses this need with the development of an

application-layer bandwidth protection feature that enables network administrators to define the maximum bandwidth consumption of the ECDN. In a typical ECDN customer environment Central Controllers are few (e.g., approximately 2 per 25 edge locations), and they are usually deployed to larger offices serving as network hubs. The Central Controller may also integrate and make information and alerts available to existing enterprise monitoring systems. Content Servers are responsible for delivering content to end users, by first attempting to serve out of cache, and in the instance of a cache miss, by fetching the original file from an origin server. A Content Server may also perform stream splitting in a live streaming situation, allowing for scalable distribution of live streams. Other components that complement the ECDN include origin servers, storage, and streaming encoders. The first two are components that most corporate networks already possess, and the latter is a component that is provided as a part of most third party streaming applications. Communications to and from the configuration and reporting modules may occur through an http server. A policy engine may influence decisions whether routing is provided by a metafile redirector, or by a DNS name server. Preferably, the policy engine is rules-based, and each rule may be tried in rank order until a match is made. Alternatively, the Central Controller may implement DNS-based mapping of client requests to servers. In this case, the DNS name server accepts hits from HTTP clients, requests a policy ruling from the policy engine, and returns this policy decision to the client, typically in the form of an IP address of a given content server.

The bandwidth protection is implemented in the Content Server alternatively; bandwidth protection is implemented in a distributed manner. If bandwidth protection is done in a distributed manner, the ECDN Central Controller may maintain a database of link topology and usage, and that database is frequently updated, to facilitate the bandwidth protection via a given policy. Alternatively, bandwidth protection can be implemented by the Central Controller heuristically.

An ECDN as described in Kloninger et al. facilitates various customer applications, such as one or more of the following: live, corporate, streaming media (internal and Internet sources), HTTP content delivery, liveness checking of streaming media servers, network "hotspot" detection with policy-based avoidance and alternative routing options for improved user request handling, video-on-demand

(VOD) policy management for the distribution of on-demand video files, intranet content distribution and caching, and load management and distributed resource routing for targeted object servers. An ECDN may comprise existing enterprise con¬tent and/or media servers together with the (add-on) Central Controller, or the ECDN provider may provide both the Central Controller and the content servers. As noted above, a Content Server may be a server that supports either HTTP content delivery or streaming media delivery, or that provides both HTTP and streaming delivery from the same machine.

Kloninger et al. fails to disclose the technical solutions as set forth in amended claims 15 and 20 of the present application. And, persons skilled in the art are not able to obtain the technical inspiration on the virtual electronic teaching system when reading Kloninger et al. To the contrary, Murray et al., Redfern, Lawrence, Kukic and Kloninger et al. each lie in different technical fields, describe quite different problems and solutions, insofar a person skilled in the art would not and could not combine these contradictory references.

The same applies to the dependent claims with regard to Hughes et al., which describes a connection control interface for asynchronous transfer mode switches that describe a quite different problem and solution and lie in a different technical field; Moutafov, which describes a method and a system for layering an infinite request/reply data stream on finite, unidirectional, time-limited transport that describes quite a different problem and solution, and which lies in a different technical field; Okamoto et al., which describes an electronic device with card interface that describes quite a different problem and solution, and which lies in a different technical field; Rothman et al., which describes an electronic device with card interface that describes quite a different problem and solution, and lies in a different technical field; Nessett et al., which describes a method and a system for facilitating access control to system resources in a distributed computer system that describes quite a different problem and solution and lies in a different technical field; Klingman, which describes a secure system for electronic selling that describes quite a different problem and solution and lies in a different technical field; Stephenson et al., which describes a system and method for projecting content beyond firewalls that describes quite a different problem and solution, and lies in a different technical field;

and Pattabhiraman et al., which describes a dynamic traffic management on a shared medium that describes quite a different problem and solution and lies in a different technical field. Therefore, it wouldn't have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to combine one or more of the cited prior art references, and the Examiner's combination of references therefore fails to disclose the technical solutions as set forth in the dependent claims of the present application.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. WDL-18975.

Respectfully submitted,

RANKIN, HILL & CLARK LLP

By: /Randolph E. Digges, III/
Randolph E. Digges, III, Reg. No. 40590

38210 Glenn Avenue
Willoughby, Ohio 44094-7808
(216) 566-9700